10/7/85 58895-1

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 22 NO. 4 SEPT. 1985

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	June '85	July '85
Labor Force	269,201	261,142
Employment	252,771	244,948
Unemployment	16,430	16,194
Rate (Raw)	6.1	6.2
Rate (S.A.)	6.3	6.6
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.27	$13.35
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.2	42.4
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.3	7.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$11.98	$11.98
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.7	43.3
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	322.3	322.8
Denver (Bimonthly)		360.3
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.7	+3.6

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE NATIONAL SCENE

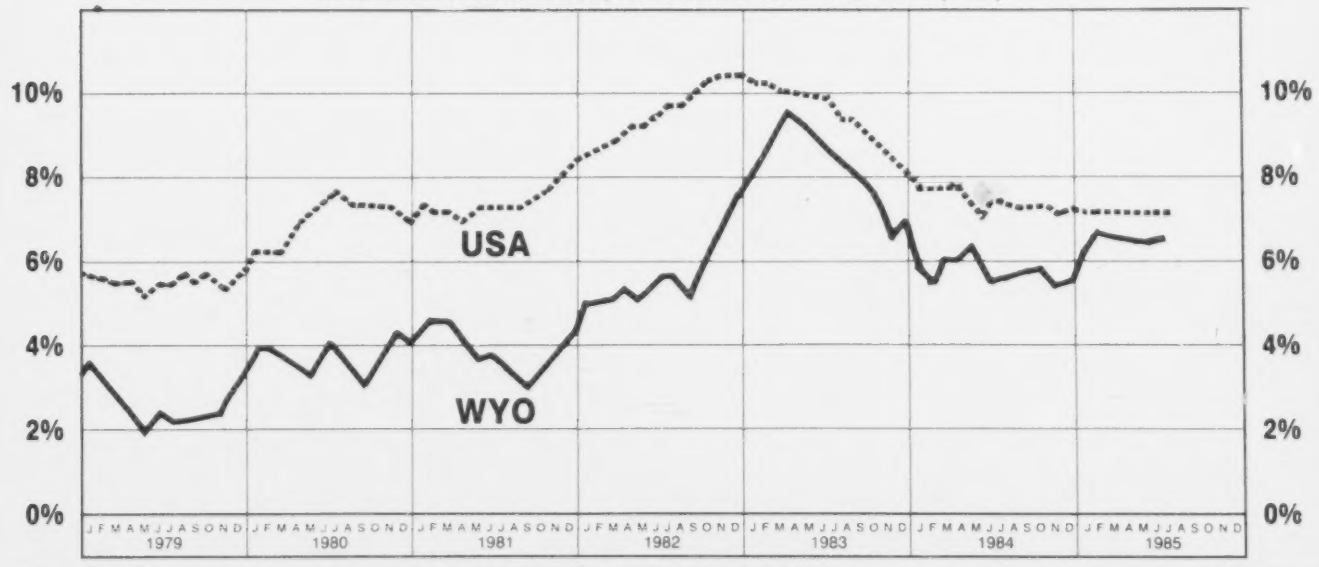
The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that employment rose in July while unemployment was little changed. The employed civilian labor force was estimated at 106.9 million while unemployment was pegged at 8.5 million for the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the U.S. for July remained at 7.3 percent, the same as it has been since February.

The U.S. preliminary estimate for the month of August, at 7.0 percent, represents the lowest unemployment rate since April of 1980. It appears that 1985 will register the lowest unemployment the Nation has had since 1980, when the annual rate was 7.1 percent. Thus far this year unemployment has averaged 7.3 percent, which compared to 7.6 percent in 1981, 9.7 percent in 1982, 9.6 percent in 1983, and 7.5 percent last year in 1984.

IN WYOMING

Wyoming's 6.2 percent unemployment rate for July, was about the same as the June rate of 6.1 percent, and the level of unemployment was little changed at 16,200. The July rate compares to 5.6 percent, recorded in July 1984, with 14,700 unemployed. The highest July rate on record was 8.1 percent in 1983 and the lowest

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

was 2.2 percent in 1979. The Wyoming July seasonally adjusted rate of 6.6 percent continued a bit lower than U.S. rate of 7.3 percent.

The July Wyoming labor force of 261,100 indicated a sharp seasonal decline of three percent from June but remained about the same as a year ago. The employed labor force traditionally peaks in June due to the hiring of recent graduates as well as students for summer jobs.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Fremont County recorded the only double-digit unemployment, 10.6 percent in July, followed by Big Horn at 8.5 percent. Teton County continued with the lowest unemployment, 3.3 percent. See Table 2. Assuming consistent historical trends, unemployment should decline through August or September.

Natrona County, with an unemployment level of 6.9 percent, continued with the highest number of unemployed, 2,700, followed by Laramie County with 1,800 unemployed. Crook had the fewest jobseekers, with 129 unemployed.

OTHER STATES

Unrevised June rates that are not seasonally adjusted are the most current data available for all states. Of the six states bordering Wyoming, two, Idaho and Montana at 7.0 and 6.8 percent, had higher unemployment than Wyoming's June rate of 6.1 percent. Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah had rates of 5.5, 5.1, 5.3 and 6.0 percent respectively.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, which is a survey of business establishments in Wyoming, is the source for material found here and in Table 3.

Preliminary CES results for the month of July show 206,500 non-agricultural wage and salary workers in Wyoming. This is a slight drop from June and an increase of 1,500, or 0.7 percent from July of 1984.

Trade and Government continue to be the dominate industries in terms of employment. Together they employ over 93,000 persons or nearly 50 percent of all the state's non-farm employment. Services is currently the fastest growing industry in Wyoming, up almost 16 percent, followed by government which was up almost 4 percent.

WYOMING PER CAPITA INCOME TUMBLES

In 1984 Wyoming's per capita income ranked a dismal 27th among the states at $12,224, 4.4 percent below the national average of $12,789 according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Compare this to the glory days of 1978-1982 when the state was consistently ranked in the top ten.

WYOMING PER CAPITA INCOME

Year	Per Capita Income	Ranking	% of U.S. Average
1976	6,791	14th	107
1977	7,535	12th	108
1978	8,644	7th	111
1979	9,843	7th	114
1980	11,009	5th	116
1981	12,066	5th	114
1982	12,040	5th	108
1983	11,643	15th	99
1984	12,224	27th	96

The top ten states in 1984 were Alaska, with a per capita income of $17,487; Connecticut, with $16,556; New Jersey, with $15,440; Massachusetts, with $14,784; California, with $14,487; Maryland, with $14,464; New York, with $14,318; Colorado, with $13,847; Illinois, with $13,802; and Delaware at $13,685.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Only 15 percent of Wyoming's population is located in a metropolitan area. Every other state had a higher percentage.

Wyoming's 21.7 births per 1,000 people ranks the state third in the birth rate behind Utah and Alaska.

Wyoming's 115 physicians per 100,000 population ranks the state 48th in that category.

Seventy-eight percent of Wyoming's population has completed high school, which ranks the state fourth behind Alaska, Utah and Colorado.

The source for this data is the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistical Abstract of the United States for 1985.

LOWER PRICES IN CASPER?

According to the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) Inter-City Cost of Living Index publication, prices have fallen in almost all categories in Casper compared to 1983. Real estate indicated the sharpest decline with the price of an 1,800 square foot new house falling from $84,833, second quarter 1983, to $74,267 in the second quarter of this year. The same house would cost as little as $55,000 in Duluth, MN and as much as $181,300 in San Francisco, CA. The all-item index for Casper for the second quarter stood at 101.5, not much above the national average base index of 100.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
July 1985	322.8	309.5	351.6	265.0	202.8	321.8	404.0
Annual % Change	3.6	2.1	4.0	6.1	3.2	2.8	6.2

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
July 1985	319.1	309.0	345.0	264.1	201.8	323.5	402.0
Annual % Change	3.8	2.0	5.0	6.1	3.3	2.6	6.2

RECENT RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS PUBLICATIONS

- **1985 Wyoming Annual Planning Report;** a comprehensive analysis of labor market developments for the state and its counties.
- **State and County Summary of Covered Employment Annual Report;** gives average employment and average weekly wages by industry for the state and its counties for 1981, 1982, and 1983.
- **Second Quarter 1985 Report of Applicants and Job Openings;** comes from information supplied by Wyoming's 16 Job Service Centers entailing an analysis of job openings and applicants and characteristics of both.
- **Occupational Employment Statistics, Manufacturing and Hospitals in Wyoming: 1983;** based on a sample of these industries, this report identifies the staffing patterns and occupations comprising these industries.
- **The Statistical Review of Wyoming;** not published since the mid-1970's, this 150-page report compiles all the significant data generated by the Wyoming Employment Security Commission from 1939 to 1984.
- **Wyoming Occupational Outlook;** just released, this report projects industry and occupational growth in Wyoming up to 1990. It also provides information concerning the number of expected job openings in many occupations.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JUL 1985 [1]	JUN 1985 [1]	JUL 1984 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	261,142	269,201	261,801	- 3.0	- 0.3
Unemployment	16,194	16,430	14,716	- 1.4	10.0
Employed Labor Force	244,948	252,771	247,085	- 3.1	- 0.9
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	194,600	195,500	195,822	- 0.5	- 0.6
b. Agriculture[3]	16,333	18,148	16,635	- 10.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	6.2% 6.6%*	6.1% 6.3%*	5.6% 6.0%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.4% 7.3%*	7.5% 7.3%*	7.5% 7.5%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	1.8%	2.0%	1.6%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 566.04	$ 586.53	$ 544.00	- 3.5	4.1
Average Weekly Hours	42.4	44.2	42.5	- 4.1	- 0.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.35	$ 13.27	$ 12.80	0.6	4.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	19,016	17,832	14,023	6.6	35.6
a. Initial	2,587	2,089	1,758	23.8	47.2
Weeks Compensated	14,019	14,867	11,714	- 5.7	19.7
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,079,617	$ 2,199,294	$ 1,667,539	- 5.4	24.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 147.01	$ 146.93	$ 142.35	0.1	3.3
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	2,968	4,738	3,265	- 37.4	- 9.1
Non-Ag. Openings Received	3,110	4,820	3,745	- 35.5	- 17.0
Non-Ag. Placements	2,376	4,303	2,868	- 44.8	- 17.2
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 518.73	$ 523.53	$ 500.09	- 0.9	3.7
Average Weekly Hours	43.3	43.7	43.0	- 0.9	0.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.98	$ 11.98	$ 11.63	0.0	3.0
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	322.8	322.3	311.7	0.2	3.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities	309.0	309.1	311.9	0.0	- 0.9
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	309.5	309.3	303.2	0.1	2.1

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUL 1985	JUN 1985	JUL 1984	%CHANGE JUN-JUL	%CHANGE JUL-JUL	JUL 1985	JUN 1985	JUL 1984	JUL 1985	JUN 1985	JUL 1984
Statewide	261,142	269,201	261,801	- 3.0	- 0.3	16,194	16,430	14,716	6.2	6.1	5.6
Albany	14,358	14,841	14,954	- 3.3	- 4.0	577	591	555	4.0	4.0	3.7
Big Horn	5,260	5,423	5,142	- 3.0	2.3	446	426	326	8.5	7.9	6.3
Campbell	20,277	20,566	19,168	- 1.4	5.8	1,335	1,226	832	6.6	6.0	4.3
Carbon	9,647	9,731	10,033	- 0.9	- 3.8	612	661	670	6.3	6.8	6.7
Converse	7,855	7,830	7,361	0.3	6.7	583	608	494	7.4	7.8	6.7
Crook	2,736	2,981	2,920	- 8.2	- 6.3	129	125	100	4.7	4.2	3.4
Fremont	16,511	17,396	17,836	- 5.1	- 7.4	1,757	1,736	1,700	10.6	10.0	9.5
Goshen	6,986	7,503	6,980	- 6.9	0.1	331	357	332	4.7	4.8	4.8
Hot Springs	2,919	3,026	2,934	- 3.5	- 0.5	172	157	130	5.9	5.2	4.4
Johnson	4,057	4,192	3,998	- 3.2	1.5	232	207	136	5.7	4.9	3.4
Laramie	35,103	36,341	35,078	- 3.4	0.1	1,826	1,907	1,545	5.2	5.2	4.4
Lincoln	7,787	7,940	6,556	- 1.9	18.8	534	531	588	6.9	6.7	9.0
Natrona	38,545	39,647	39,360	- 2.8	- 2.1	2,655	2,578	2,506	6.9	6.5	6.4
Niobrara	1,664	1,684	1,733	- 1.2	- 4.0	136	133	132	8.2	7.9	7.6
Park	16,148	16,504	17,383	- 2.2	- 7.1	775	785	659	4.8	4.8	3.8
Platte	4,128	4,674	4,375	- 11.7	- 5.6	293	307	263	7.1	6.6	6.0
Sheridan	12,130	12,738	12,582	- 4.8	- 3.6	811	873	799	6.7	6.9	6.4
Sublette	3,059	3,140	2,580	- 2.6	18.6	141	136	160	4.6	4.3	6.2
Sweetwater	21,236	22,050	20,461	- 3.7	3.8	1,228	1,341	1,442	5.8	6.1	7.0
Teton	10,395	9,894	10,136	5.1	2.6	343	351	286	3.3	3.5	2.8
Uinta	10,999	11,688	10,902	- 5.9	0.9	728	821	740	6.6	7.0	6.8
Washakie	5,676	5,677	5,601	0.0	1.3	348	328	176	6.1	5.8	3.1
Weston	3,666	3,736	3,727	- 1.9	- 1.6	204	244	144	5.6	6.5	3.9

The ESC wishes to stress that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about one year. On an annual average basis, the accuracy of these estimates may vary from the actual figures by as much as eight percent, plus or minus.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	JUL 1985[2]	JUN 1985[1]	JUL 1984	JUN 1985	JUL 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1985	to JUL 1985
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	206.5	208.8	205.0	- 1.1	0.7
Manufacturing	8.4	8.4	8.5	0.0	- 1.2
Durable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.4	0.0	- 6.8
Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.1	0.0	4.9
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	198.1	200.4	196.5	- 1.1	0.8
Mining	26.5	26.1	27.3	1.5	- 2.9
Contract Construction	13.3	12.7	14.9	4.7	- 10.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	15.4	15.4	16.3	0.0	- 5.5
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.2	3.3	- 6.3	- 9.1
Transportation except Railroads	5.9	5.7	5.9	3.5	0.0
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.5	6.5	7.1	0.0	- 8.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.2	43.9	46.8	0.7	- 5.6
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.2	9.0	0.0	2.2
Retail Trade	35.0	34.8	37.8	0.6	- 7.4
Food Stores	5.2	5.1	5.0	2.0	4.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.4	6.2	6.6	3.2	- 3.0
Eating & Drinking Places	10.9	11.1	13.1	- 1.8	- 16.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.1	8.1	8.0	0.0	1.3
Services	41.4	40.8	35.8	1.5	15.6
Personal Services	1.7	1.7	1.9	0.0	- 10.5
Medical & Other Health Services	6.2	6.2	6.3	0.0	- 1.6
Government	49.2	53.4	47.4	- 7.9	3.8
Federal Government	9.3	9.2	8.5	1.1	9.4
State & Local Government	39.9	44.2	38.9	- 9.7	2.6
State Government	12.7	13.1	12.5	- 3.1	1.6
Local Government	27.2	31.1	26.4	- 12.5	3.0

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	JUL 1985[2]	JUN 1985[3]	JUL 1984	JUN 1985	JUL 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1985	to JUL 1985
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.7	34.2	34.2	- 1.5	- 1.5
Manufacturing	1.5	1.4	1.4	7.1	7.1
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.8	0.7	- 12.5	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	32.2	32.8	32.8	- 1.8	- 1.8
Mining	4.6	4.6	5.8	0.0	- 20.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.2	4.1	5.2	2.4	- 19.2
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.4	0.5	0.6	- 20.0	- 33.3
Contract Construction	3.0	2.9	2.3	3.4	30.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.0	2.1	2.2	- 4.8	- 9.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.2	9.3	9.3	- 1.1	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	2.9
Retail Trade	5.5	5.7	5.8	- 3.5	- 5.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.6	1.7	6.3	0.0
Services	5.8	5.8	5.9	0.0	- 1.7
Government	5.9	6.5	5.6	- 9.2	5.4
Federal Government	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	- 28.6
State & Local Government	5.4	6.0	4.9	- 10.0	10.2
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.6	31.1	30.3	- 1.6	1.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.5	30.0	29.2	- 1.7	1.0
Contract Construction	1.4	1.2	1.6	16.7	- 12.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.6	3.9	- 5.6	- 12.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.3	7.2	7.6	1.4	- 3.9
Wholesale Trade	0.9	1.0	0.9	- 10.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.3	6.2	6.7	1.6	- 6.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.7	5.6	5.0	1.8	14.0
Government	9.8	10.5	9.2	- 6.7	6.5
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	8.3
State & Local Government	7.1	7.8	6.8	- 9.0	4.4

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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